

STUDENTS' MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF

Knox's College.

Its Nature and Design—Its present Field of Labour—What it has done in it—And, what it now Seeks to do.

1. *The Nature and Design of the Association.*

These will be best understood by the following extracts from its Constitution ;

Article 2nd, "Its design shall be the fostering of a Missionary spirit, and the promotion of Missionary objects by all available means."

Article 3rd, "Its members shall consist of all Students recognised by the Presbyterian Church of Canada, as looking forward to the ministry, along with the Professors of the College, and such honorary members as may be from time to time appointed."

By-Law 6th, "That the funds of the Society shall be specially employed in aiding the work of Evangelization among the French Canadian population."

2. *The Society's present Field of Labour.*

In the early part of the summer of 1851, the Society commenced Missionary labours among the French Canadians at Metis, a place about 200 miles below Quebec, on the south side of the St. Lawrence. Here Mr. Kedey, one of their own number, laboured during the College recess, and in that time a School was established for the education of French Canadian children.—The Society consider this the place most suitable to begin missionary operations in order to reach the immense dormant mass of population that now lies sunk in ignorance and superstition.—From Quebec downwards, for more than 200 miles, the whole population, with a few exceptions, are French Canadians, and most devotedly attached to the soul-destroying system of the "Man of Sin." The County of Rimouski itself, though far down the River, numbers not less than 20,000 inhabitants. Almost every nine miles a Romish Church, with all its usual appendages, meets the eye. At Ste. Anne, far below Quebec, there is an extensive College, where the most promising youth of the surrounding country are imbued with the dogmas and spirit of Romanism. As yet little has been done by Protestants in this extensive field of Missionary enterprise.

3. *What the Society has done in this Field.*

As has already been stated, one of its members laboured at Metis during the summer of 1851.—He held meetings which were attended by a number of French Canadians, to whom the Scriptures were read and expounded in their own language. He also visited families and was invariably well received. The desire to hear the Word of God was apparent wherever he went. He distributed a few copies of the Scriptures. The confidence of several in the Church of Rome has been shaken, and some have left her communion altogether. And finally, a school, as has been

mentioned, was opened with a view of giving a Scriptural, as well as a sound elementary education to the French Canadian children. In the face of much priestly opposition, it was commenced about the end of July, with three or four scholars. In September the number had increased to nine, and in February, 1852, the number had reached fifteen; four of these, however, were withdrawn on account of a threat from the Bishop of Quebec, to the effect that those who should send their children to the Mission School, would be deprived of the privileges of the Church. There is reason to thank God, however, that there are some who say that they do not fear his threats, while others have come to see the school, and have gone away saying, "who can say anything against it?"

4. *What the Society seeks to do.*

The work which we have undertaken must, from its very nature, either progress and extend, or dwindle away and prove a failure. In entering upon it, it has been the desire and hope of the Society that the former may be the issue. And they feel that they can appeal with confidence to the friends of Christ to assist in extending their efforts. In order to prosecute the work successfully, our school would require immediately a Female Teacher to take charge of the Girls' department. This would add greatly to its efficiency. Books and other articles for the use of the school, are also required; and as the Teacher's house must, especially during the winter, become an asylum for many of the poorer children, articles for household use and clothing for the more destitute, will be necessary. And although the Society has the prospect of obtaining the services of their former missionary, Mr. Kedey, during the ensuing summer, it is highly desirable that funds should be raised for the support of a permanent colporteur to carry the Bible from house to house, and converse familiarly with the *habitants*, and thereby strengthen the hands both of the missionary and the teachers. Experience warrants the opinion, that it is only by the combined efforts of the Missionary, the Colporteur and the Teacher, that the work of evangelization can, in such a field, be successfully prosecuted. The aid of Bible Classes and Sabbath Schools is especially solicited in this important work.

WM. McLAREN, *President.*

JOHN LAING, *Secretary.*

N. B.—Contributions, in money, books, clothing, &c., will be thankfully received, and may be sent to the Treasurer, Mr. John Rennie, Knox's College, Toronto; or to James Hossack, Esq., Merchant, Lower Town, Quebec.